



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF
HEALTH OFFICERS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ELIGIBILITY STAFF
ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION DIVISION STAFF**

FROM: DEBBIE RUPPERT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH/OES *Debbie Ruppert*

RE: HOSPITAL PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY (HPE)

PROGRAM AFFECTED: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF ELIGIBILITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) allows qualified hospitals to make “presumptive eligibility” determinations for Medical Assistance (MA) based on basic, self-attested income and demographic information. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Department) plans to implement the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) Program effective October 2014.

HPE OVERVIEW

HPE provides temporary MA, with full MA benefits, to the ACA populations – children, parents, single adults under 65, and pregnant women. This eligibility is temporary, and hospitals have been instructed to file the complete MA application simultaneously. HPE enrollees are not enrolled in managed care organizations (MCOs) until they receive a full MA determination.

Individuals eligible for HPE will be reflected as coverage group C13M for MAGI groups and C13P for Pregnant Woman on the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). The recipient will not receive a Medical Care Program card. The eligible recipients have full access to MA benefits on a fee-for-service basis; recipients are not assigned to an MCO. The EVS System will include a message to identify HPE enrollees as “Eligible”. It will not mention their temporary status.

If approved, HPE begins on the date the hospital submits the application, and ends on the last day of the month following the HPE determination. For example, if the hospital submits an application on September 10th, the approved applicant is eligible from

September 10th through October 31st. HPE coverage will end earlier if the applicant applies and is found eligible for full MA coverage. However, the transition from HPE coverage to full MA coverage has no impact on services available to the applicant. The only change will be that full MA coverage prompts MCO enrollment.

Generally, applying for HPE will involve an HPE worker gathering basic eligibility information from the applicant, submitting the information through the eMedicaid portal, giving the applicant the approval or denial letter and then assisting the applicant with completing a full MA application prior to leaving the hospital.

If approved for HPE, eligibility begins on the date the HPE application is submitted into eMedicaid. If retroactive eligibility is needed, the HPE worker should assist the applicant with requesting retroactive coverage for up to the three months prior to the month of the full MA application.

When HPE applications are submitted near the end of the month, the HPE worker is **strongly encouraged** to make every attempt to submit the full MA application in the same month as the HPE application so that the applicant does not lose out on retroactive consideration for any of the months associated with the month of application. For example, the applicant who was eligible for HPE beginning September 10th, will need to have a full MA application submitted in September for consideration of the retroactive months of June, July and August. If MA eligibility is also needed in September prior to September 10th, the full MA application must be submitted no later than December 31st.

If an individual is approved for full MA, eligibility will begin on the first day of the month that the full MA application was submitted. If a partial month of HPE eligibility was previously granted in the month that the full MA application was submitted, the HPE eligibility period will be overwritten with a new coverage group span effective the first of the month. For example, the applicant who was eligible for HPE beginning September 10th, will be approved effective September 1st if found eligible for full MA.

Individuals are only eligible for an HPE eligibility consideration once per year. The only exception is pregnant women who apply for HPE; they are eligible once per pregnancy or once every eight (8) months.

There are no appeal rights for the decisions rendered for HPE applications.

A copy of the HPE application and the approval and denial notices are attached for your reference. Paper HPE applications are not available as the applications are embedded in the eMedicaid System. A template of the application structure is attached.

Attachments

Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Application
Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Approval Notice
Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Denial Notice

INQUIRIES:

Please direct Medical Assistance policy questions the DHMH Division of Eligibility Policy at 410-767-1463 or 1-800-492-5231 (select option 2 and request extension 1463).

cc: DHMH Executive Staff
 DHR Executive Staff
 DHMH Management Staff
 DHR Management Staff
 Constituent Services
 DHR Help Desk